(c) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken against the accused persons?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) some cases have come to the attention of the Ministry of Defence where a few army personnel have been arrested for being involved in the sale of spurious liquor in the capital, in joint operations carried out by Civil Police and Military Police/Army Intelligence in April and August 2003. Army personnel involved in such cases are dealt with as per Army Act. However, no spurious liquor is being sold through Canteen Stores Department.

Raising of Territorial Army with ex-militants

130. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to raise a Territorial Army with ex-militants to counter insurgency;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) steps taken by Government to tackle and to stop spread of insurgency in different parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) A proposal has been moved by the Ministry of Defence to raise one Infantry Battalion (Territorial Army) comprising surrendered militants to be employed in conjunction with the Army and Rashtriya Rifles in counter insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) Adequate security measures have been put in place by the security forces to thwart threats posed by the terrorist groups in Jammu and Kashmir as well as other parts of the country through continuous process of technological upgrades and refinement in operating techniques. These measures are being supported by military civic actions in order to win over hearts and minds of the local population.

Accidents in Bharat Dynamic Ltd.

131. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many major and minor accidents have occurred in Bharat Dynamic Ltd., Hyderabad during the last five years, year-wise;

(b) the number of workers killed or injured in such accidents, year-wise and total loss caused in accident;

(c) the compensation paid to the affected ones in each of these accidents; and

(d) the preventive measures taken to avoid such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Two major accidents, one during 2001 and another one in 2002, occurred in BDL during the last five years.

(b) In the first accident, one person was killed and 3 were injured. In the second accident 2 persons were killed and 9 were injured. The total loss caused in these two accidents was estimated at Rs. 2168.40 lakh.

(c) Compensation of Rs. 15,61,781/- was paid in the first accident alongwith employment to the spouse of the deceased employee. In the second accident compensation of Rs. 15,28,698/- was paid alongwith employment to the spouse of the deceased employee.

(d) Safety measures have been streamlined to avoid accidents. Safety Officers have been appointed Division-wise to regularly monitor the safety measures. Explosive Safety Manual has been prepared in consultation with STEC, Ordnance Factories. Procedures as per the manual are being strictly followed. Regular classes are conducted on safety to bring in awareness among the employees.

Mid-air collision between drone and MIG-21

132. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a mid-air collision between a newly-acquired drone and a MIG-21 fighter has occurred over the Bhatinda airbase in Punjab on October 24, 2003; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?